



MICHIGAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2002

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Levin, Stabenow, Announce Sawyer Airport Selected to Continue Participation in Military Assistance Program

U.P. Airport One of Five Selected Nationwide

WASHINGTON — Senators Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., announced today that Sawyer Airport in Marquette has been selected by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to continue participation in the Military Airport Program (MAP). MAP provides financial assistance for military airfields being converted to, or that have been converted to, civilian or joint-use airfields.

"This extension helps build upon the successful conversion of the former KI Sawyer Air Force Base into a civilian airport," Levin said today. "I am pleased that this airport, which is such a vital part of the economic picture in the U.P., will receive assistance to help rehabilitate hangars and expand the fuel farm."

"I was pleased to assist Sawyer International Airport in their efforts to participate in the Military Airports Program," said Senator Stabenow. "This important program will aid the airport in their efforts to offer passengers safer and more convenient service in up-to-date facilities."

In a letter to the FAA in March, Levin, Stabenow, and Congressman Bart Stupak, D-Menominee, urged the department to extend Sawyer Airport's participation in the MAP program. "MAP has played an instrumental role in helping these former military bases successfully convert to commercial use. The airports, their communities and the local economies that depend on them need to know that this federal assistance will continue until the full conversion has been completed," the three Michigan lawmakers stated in the letter.

Levin has been a longtime supporter of improvements to Sawyer Airport and its conversion to a civilian airport. In 1997, in addition to securing a \$763,000 grant to help convert the former military airfield for civil aircraft use, Levin's language in legislation reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration made the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base eligible — for the first time — to apply for MAP funds. Before Levin's effort, K.I. Sawyer was ineligible for the grant because the funds were limited to airports that would alleviate congestion in metropolitan areas. Levin has secured over \$14 million in FAA funding for Sawyer Airport since 1997.

According to the FAA, the MAP program increases airport system capacity by funding the development of civilian airfields in or near major metropolitan areas at relatively low costs. MAP funds may be used for projects that aid in the conversion process for civilian use. These projects include building or rehabilitating surface parking lots, fuel farms, hangars, utility systems, access roads and cargo buildings.